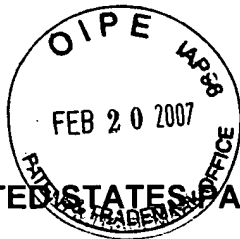


Docket: 71626US03

PATENT



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: Shelton et. al.

Serial No.: 10/796,235

Group Art Unit: 1711

Filed: March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006

Examiner: Saira Raza

For: LOW MOLECULAR WEIGHT CARBOXYALKYCELLULOSE ESTERS  
AND THEIR USE AS LOW VISCOSITY BINDERS AND MODIFIERS IN  
COATING COMPOSITIONS

Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE**

Concerning the Office Action mailed on December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2006, entry of the following response is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-64 are presently under consideration by the Examiner. In the First Office Action mailed on March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2006, Claims 1-64 were subject to a restriction requirement. Applicants elected with traverse Group I (Claims 1-46) which are drawn to a cellulose ester product. Also, in the First Office Action, the Examiner also requires a selection of species. Applicants elected with traverse for the reasons stated above Claims 36-38. After speaking with the Examiner in a teleconference, Applicants explained that Claims 36-38 selected particular C3-C4 ester, acetyl, and hydroxyl substitution ranges and are of particular interest to Applicants. Concerning additives, Applicants elected with traverse leveling, rheology, and flow control agents. Concerning the water-soluble resin, Applicants elected with traverse acrylics.

In the Office Action mailed on December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2006, the Examiner states that applicants did not include a listing of all claims readable on the elected claims 36-38. Claims 5 and 19 read on claims 36-38.

If the Examiner has any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

Eastman Chemical Company  
P.O. Box 511  
Kingsport, Tennessee .37662  
Phone: (423)229-6204  
FAX: (423) 229-1239

Polly C. Owen  
Polly C. Owen  
Registration No. 44,991

2-13-07  
Date

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Mary Harrison  
Mary Harrison

2-13-07  
Date